

# ETSURA

## NewsLetter



RETIREES ASSOCIATION

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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### Inside This Issue

- 1 President's Message
- 2 New Retirees / Condolences
- 3 News and Events
- 4 Calendar

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Dear Fellow Retirees,

Two years ago, I was, like many of you, on the outside looking in. I knew "nothing" about what ETSURA was and did. After a couple of years of intense on-the-job-training, I can now say, with confidence, that I know "next-to-nothing."

Seriously, I have learned that ETSURA was started in July of 1988 with Mack Davis as President and with 128 paid members. The intent of the newsletter was to include news of "deaths, changes of addresses, extended hospitalizations, serious illnesses, marriages, births of new grandchildren, far away travels...[to] be especially appreciated by members who have moved from the area." The board of directors was organized into Executive, Membership, Deliberative, Programs, Communicative, and Liaison teams. There was a monthly "Time-Out" get-together with no program or charges, which was advertised but not well attended. Events included a tour of the Medical School Facilities, trips to Barter Playhouse and A.P. Carter Store (Hiltons, VA), picnic at Rotary Park, Annual Faculty Dinner (Culp Ballroom), and the Annual ETSURA Meeting. Services to members included courtesy library cards and parking stickers. Services provided by members included tutoring of ETSU students.

Today we have 373 paid members, with 200 of them living in the greater Tri-Cities region. The committee structure now involves: Executive, Communications, Finance, Membership, Program, University/Community Service, and Liaison Committees. We currently have

three Eat-and-Chat sessions (Feb., Apr., Sept.), summer picnic (June), and Annual Meeting (Oct.), all with invited speakers.

We are a member of the Tennessee Higher Education Retirees Association (THERA). Meetings are held in Nov. to brainstorm and learn of ways to better serve our members.

In today's busy world, ETSURA is competing with activities of churches, fraternal organizations, senior citizens groups, and continuing education courses. The one difference is our tie to ETSU. Our purpose is to

"establish a formal group of ETSU retirees who...desire a continuing social contact; to establish...communication between the University and the retirees; and to assist the University..." (ETSURA bylaws). One member told me we didn't need speakers, as he just wanted to chat with people he hadn't seen in a while. All of our functions are aimed at providing that opportunity to visit---we just don't know who is going at show up. Sadly, many of our members are mobility-impaired and cannot get around. Communication is important, and the internet has been a big help. We make phone calls to those without email to remind them of activities and to get updates on their situations.

At our Feb. Eat-and-Chat, we had Dr. Lewis Songer speak on the principles of harmonics in music, complete with demonstrations. In addition to being an expert in acoustics, he is the chairman-elect of the JC Symphony Orchestra and fielded questions about the organization. For our next Eat-and-Chat (Thursday, April 7th), we are privileged to have Dr. Fred

Alsop speak on his Eagle Nest Cam Project. Fred is a Professor in Biology at ETSU and a renowned expert in Ornithology. We have tentatively scheduled Geoff Stunkard to speak on the Carter Railroad Museum and Heritage Days at our Sept. Eat-and-Chat. Rotary Park is not available for our picnic this year due to construction. Because of problems with alternate city park locations (accessibility, parking, capacity), we will instead hold our June picnic at the new Food City meeting room, located at Sunset and State of Franklin. We plan to again hold our Annual Meeting at the JC Country Club (the Culp Ballroom presented accessibility issues, while the Millennium Center began charging too much). Our service project in the Fall is to help students with "Move-in" Day. I feel it should be called "Check-in" Day, since it involves clerical--not physical--work. Eastman Credit Union has been very generous to ETSURA, as has been University Advancement. The one constant in all these years has been the help of Human Resources and Diana McClay. She was there at the start and is there today. Kudos also to David and Lori for their help. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, you can call or email Human Resources, or you can email me at [miyamoto@etsu.edu](mailto:miyamoto@etsu.edu). We need to know what you are thinking in order to serve you better.

Aloha,

Mike Miyamoto  
ETSURA President





## Congratulations Recent Retirees

**Dr. Norman Assad, Professor, OB/GYN**

**Ms. Helen Blevins, Coordinator, Procurement**

**Ms. Pamela Cameron, Secretary 2, Graduate Medical Education**

**Dr. Sandra Diffenderfer, Associate Professor, Nursing**

**Ms. Linda Francisco, Coordinator, Psychiatry**

**Mr. Todd M. Franklin, Advisor, Computing**

**Mr. Larry Gillenwater, Custodian, Facilities Management**

**Ms. Barbara Hathaway, Nurse Practitioner, Nursing**

**Dr. Frederick Hipple, Professor, Economics and Finance**

**Mr. Robert Hoffman, Radio Announcer, Campus Radio**

**Mr. Gordon Holmes, Electrician, Facilities Management**

**Ms. Sylvia Kirkpatrick, Information Research Technician 2, Procurement**

**Dr. Richard Kortum, Professor, Philosophy and Humanities**

**Ms. Margaret Miller, Director, Financial Aid**

**Ms. Patricia Moore, Assistant Professor, Nursing**

**Dr. Phillip Musich, Professor, Biomedical Sciences**

**Ms. Pamela Robinson, Stock Supervisor, Facilities Management**

**Dr. Uta Schambra, Associate Professor, Biomedical Sciences**

**Ms. Wilma Jean Smith, Patient Care Specialist, Family Medicine**

**Dr. Frederick Waage, Professor, Literature and Language**

**Mr. McKinley Woodby, Custodial Leadworker, Facilities Management**

## Our condolences for the families of retirees who have passed

Perrin T. Croy passed away on December 27, 2015. She retired from the admissions office. She is survived by her three children.

Dr. Lester Hartsell passed away on January 19. Dr. Hartsell retired from the math department where he was a professor and former chairman. He is survived by his wife, Ann; and, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He was a life member of the ETSURA and an active member.

Melody D. Henry passed away on October 3, 2015. She had worked for the computer science department. She is survived by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Leonard Konikiewicz passed away on December 17, 2015. He retired from the College of Medicine. He is survived by his wife, Nina, and his children.

Lemuel "Mac" McMahan passed away in December 2015. He retired as an instructor in the Department of Health Education. He is survived by his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Paul A. Walwick passed away on December 25, 2015. He retired as a professor of communications. He is survived by his wife, Joyce; his children, and grandchildren. Dr. Walwick was a life member of ETSURA.

Emma Lee Smith passed away on February 20. She retired as a custodian. She is survived by her son and four grandchildren.

Martha Matherly Hauff passed away on December 17, 2015. She retired as a secretary from the college of education. Survivors include her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Dr. Charles William Burkett passed away on February 14. He was retired as a professor from the College of Education.

## Scholarship Donations

Individuals are encouraged to express their sympathy to the family of a deceased retiree or spouse by making a contribution to the ETSURA Scholarship Fund. The deceased's family will be notified by card of the memorial. Make checks payable to: East Tennessee State University and mail to:

**ETSURA**  
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## News and Events

### ETSU Human Resources Announces a New “PERK”

ETSU has recently joined the Perks Network, which provides a wide range of discounts to ETSU employees, retirees and family members. The Perks Network not only offers discounts at businesses local to ETSU, but nationwide at restaurants, service and retail businesses and many others. Use your membership to buy gift cards and receive discounts and cash at Walmart, Target, restaurants, hotels.... places you already shop.



To sign up, visit [www.perksconnect.com](http://www.perksconnect.com) and click 'Register Now!'. Enter **ETSU16** as your Group Code to get your ETSU discount benefits. You are ready to save instantly on online purchases. Click 'Printable Card' from your home page to print your Perks Connect card to show or scan at local businesses. To scan from your smart phone, download the PerksConnect app at the App Store or Google Play.

For more information, visit the ETSURA home page at [www.etsu.edu/humanres/etsura](http://www.etsu.edu/humanres/etsura) and click the PerksConnect image.

### 2016 Board of Directors

Mrs. Ethel Garrity	1 year left in tenure
Dr. Jerry Gehre	2 years left in tenure
Ms. Georgia Greer	2 years left in tenure**
Mr. Ted Hughes	1 year left in tenure
Mr. Tod Jablonski	3 years left in tenure*
Dr. David Kalwinsky	2 years left in tenure
Dr. Kenneth Mijeski	1 year left in tenure
Dr. Mike Miyamoto	3 years left in tenure*
Ms. Candy Stieler	3 years left in tenure*
Ms. Judith Story	3 years left in tenure*

\*Elected at the Organizational Meeting on October 30, 2015.

\*\*Filling a vacated two year Board appointment.

### 2016 Officers

Dr. Mike Miyamoto	President
Dr. David Kalwinsky	President-Elect
Mrs. Ethel Garrity	Secretary
Mr. Charles Moore	Treasurer
Mrs. Ethel Garrity	Past-President
ETSURA Scholarship Endowment current balance as of 2/23/2016:	
Investment	\$199,767
Interest Income	\$14,552

## Join ETSURA

ETSURA's final membership count for the 2015 calendar year is 373. All retired ETSU employees and their spouses, and spouses of deceased ETSU employees are eligible for membership in ETSURA. In addition, other persons employed by ETSU for five years or more who are retired from other institutions or corporations are also eligible for membership with their spouses.

Not a member? The membership campaign has now begun for 2016. Membership is \$10 per person per calendar year (January 1 – December 31) or \$100 for a lifetime membership. Retirees and spouses may purchase a joint lifetime membership for \$150.

June, September and December newsletters are mailed to ETSURA paid members only. Don't miss June's newsletter. Join or renew your membership today.



## CALENDAR

The next **ETSURA Service Day** at Second Harvest Food Bank, 1020 Jericho Road, King-sport, exit 63 off I-81, will be Tues., March 9th from 9 a.m.-noon. Join us to help make our neighbors more food secure. Other tentative dates include April 13th, May 11th and June 8th.



Have you seen the eagles yet? Check out the ETSU Eagle Camera home page at [www.etsu.edu/cas/biology/eagle-cam/](http://www.etsu.edu/cas/biology/eagle-cam/) for live images of local bald eagles. Then join us for our next **Eat & Chat** on April 7, 2016, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Golden Corral (3104 Browns Mill Rd. behind Logan's Roadhouse). Our speaker will be Dr. Fred Alsop, ETSU's resident ornithologist who will be discussing the exciting Bald Eagles camera project.

The **2016 ETSURA Annual Picnic** will be held June 17 at The Depot at Franklin Commons, Food City, 920 North State of Franklin, Johnson City. Please save the date and watch for your invitation in the mail.

